REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 9, 2005 has been carefully considered. Claims 1-17 are pending. The above amendments and the following remarks are presented in a sincere attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. Claims 1-4 and 9-11 have been amended and Claims 16-17 have been added in this Response. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully request in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

An interview was held with the Examiner, Mr. Tuan V. Thai, on May 10, 2005, to discuss the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and the proposed amendments thereto. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for his time and the courtesies extended.

Claims 1-4 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of U.S. Patent 6,078,981 to Hill et al. ("Hill"). Insofar as these rejections may be applied against the amended claims, they are deemed overcome.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify a feature of the present invention. Amended Claim 1 describes a method of preventing system resource and command conflicts in a multiprocessor system by delaying the sourcing of the non-pipelined commands if there is any comparable non-pipelined command. Support for this amendment can be found, among other places, page 3, line 25 through page 4, line 2 of the original Application.

The Hill reference does not teach, suggest, or disclose this feature of the present invention. Specifically, Hill discloses a livelock preventative measure wherein a first agent may stall the bus transaction of a second agent until the first agent has completed its operation on the data. In contrast with Hill, the present invention also prevents command conflicts concerning non-pipelined commands by delaying the sourcing of a non-pipelined command if there is any comparable non-pipelined command within a predetermined time window. Therefore, the present invention avoids

system resource and command conflicts involved with snoop commands and non-pipelined commands. By delaying the sourcing of snoop commands and non-pipelined commands with conflicts the present invention prevents livelock situations. Hill does not disclose preventing system command conflicts by delaying the sourcing of non-pipelined commands.

In view of the foregoing, it is apparent that the cited reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest the unique combination now recited in amended Claim 1. Applicants therefore submit that amended Claim 1 is both clearly and precisely distinguishable over the cited reference in a patentable sense. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Hill be withdrawn and that amended Claim 1 be allowed.

Claims 2-4 depend upon and further limit amended Claim 1. Hence, for at least the aforementioned reasons, these Claims should be deemed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of dependent Claims 2-4 also be withdrawn.

Claim 9 has been amended to clarify a feature of the present invention. Amended Claim 9 describes "an apparatus for preventing system resource *and command* conflicts in a multiprocessor system… [by] delaying the sourcing of …. *the non-pipelined commands if there is any comparable non-pipelined command.*" Support for this amendment can be found, among other places, page 3, line 25 through page 4, line 2 of the original Application.

The Hill reference does not teach, suggest, or disclose this feature of the present invention. Specifically, Hill discloses a livelock preventative measure wherein a first agent may stall the bus transaction of a second agent until the first agent has completed its operation on the data. In contrast with Hill, the present invention also prevents command conflicts concerning non-pipelined commands by delaying the sourcing of a non-pipelined command if there is any comparable non-

pipelined command within a predetermined time window. Therefore, the present invention avoids system resource and command conflicts involved with snoop commands and non-pipelined commands. By delaying the sourcing of snoop commands and non-pipelined commands with conflicts the present invention prevents livelock situations. Hill does not disclose preventing system command conflicts by delaying the sourcing of non-pipelined commands.

In view of the foregoing, it is apparent that the cited reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest the unique combination now recited in amended Claim 9. Applicants therefore submit that amended Claim 9 is both clearly and precisely distinguishable over the cited reference in a patentable sense. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Hill be withdrawn and that amended Claim 9 be allowed.

Claims 10-11 depend upon and further limit amended Claim 9. Hence, for at least the aforementioned reasons, these Claims should be deemed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of dependent Claims 10-11 also be withdrawn.

New Claims 16 and 17 depend upon and further limit amended Claim 1. Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of Claims 1-17.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due; however, in the event that any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees due (other than issue fees), and to credit any overpayment made, in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-0605 of CARR LLP.
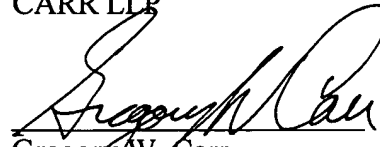
Should the Examiner deem that any further amendment is desirable to place this

application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at

the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

CARR LLP

Gregory W. Carr
Reg. No. 31,093

Dated: _6/9/05_
CARR LLP
670 Founders Square
900 Jackson Street
Dallas, Texas 75202
Telephone: (214) 760-3030
Fax: (214) 760-3003